

CAMPUS

Students compete in SpaceX final round

By London Gibson
@londongibson

Innovative design choices helped a group of UT students advance to the final round of a SpaceX competition to design a cutting-edge form of transportation technology.

Hyperloop is a revolutionary mode of travel proposed four years ago by Elon Musk, founder and CEO of spacecraft manufacturing company SpaceX. Hyperloop is meant to improve public transit and could potentially move at hundreds of miles per hour, according to the SpaceX website.

A working prototype for Hyperloop has not yet been achieved, but a team of roughly 50 UT students attempted to design a pod for transportation use. Their team, 512 Hyperloop, found out last week they would be one of 24 teams in the final round of the SpaceX

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ONLINE

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CAMPUS

Jefferson Davis statue moves to Briscoe

By Anusha Lalani
@anusha_lalani

At 8 feet, 6 inches tall, the refurbished and controversial Jefferson Davis statue reached its final destination at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, returning to university grounds.

After a restoration in Chicago, the statue is now a part of an exhibit displaying the statue's history and its journey to the Briscoe Center. "It used to be commem-

orated — now it simply exists as a teaching moment on campus," said Benjamin Wright, assistant director for communications at the Briscoe Center. "It's here to educate students and scholars and indeed any member of the public who's interested on how UT's changed over the last 80 or so years."

The statue was part of numerous protests and vandalizations in 2015. This led to the formation of a task force that looked at the repercussions of removing the

statue, leaving the final decision to President Gregory Fenves. It was later removed in August from the Main Mall, along with the statue of former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson.

"Davis had few ties to Texas. He played a unique role in the history of the American South that is best explained and understood through an educational exhibit," Fenves said in a statement in 2015. "The Briscoe Center is the logical location for the

DAVIS page 2



Courtesy of The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History
Students gather around the newly refurbished Jefferson Davis statue Saturday at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO



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Betsy Joles | Daily Texan Staff

Father Marcelino Pena Tadeo blesses the congregation of Cristo Rey Catholic Church in East Austin during mass on Palm Sunday.

UNIVERSITY

UT releases plan to create diversity, inclusion policies

By Rachel Cooper
@rachelcoopa

Recruiting a more diverse campus community, investing in more student housing and increasing housing accommodations for disabled and LGBTQ students are just three of 48 goals from the University's newly released Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.

The plan, released on March 30, was created in an effort to increase and promote diversity throughout the University.

UT President Gregory Fenves announced the development of the plan in his 2016 State of the University Address in September. Fenves shared the plan in an email to the University as a solution to one of the "many challenges" facing the world and UT.

"The core purpose of the University of Texas at Austin is to transform lives for the benefit of society," Fenves said in an email. "We cannot carry

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The traditions and complexities of universities can be slow to shift so we must remain diligent in our pursuit.

—Gregory Vincent,
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement

out that purpose until every person in our community is included and treated equitably. This plan is a step toward that goal, but there is much work to be done if we are to ensure our future progress."

According to a university press release, the plan was developed over the past six months by Gregory Vincent, vice president for diversity and community engagement; Soncia Reagins-Lilly, vice president for student affairs; and Maurie McInnis, executive vice president and provost.

Vincent said in an email that UT has made a lot of progress in the way of diversity but there are still areas that can be improved and challenges that come along with the plan.

"Impacting campus climate and institutional culture and measuring that impact will be challenges but ones we are committing to with this plan," Vincent said. "I always say that there are two institutions which look very much the same as they did hundreds of years ago — churches and

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CAMPUS

New on-campus arena to replace Erwin Center

By Tyler Horka
@TexasTy95

Say goodbye to the Frank Erwin Center. Texas men and women's basketball will have a new home in less than a decade.

University President Gregory Fenves held a meeting with members of the University's Development Board on Friday to discuss details of the proposed on-campus arena, which Fenves expects to be open in the next five to seven years.

"The campus master plan, developed in 2012, called for the land under the Erwin Center to be used for future expansion of the Dell Medical School and the UT Health District," Fenves said to the Development Board. "As we prepare for that, we will also ensure that our outstanding men's and women's basketball programs can continue to compete in a great arena."

The new arena's layout and costs have not been released, but the location is fairly certain. Graphics released with Fenves' statement show the new arena located directly south of Mike A. Myers Stadium and directly east of the Recreational Sports Center — the exact location of what is currently a major source of daily parking for students with a class C permit, Lot 70.

While day-to-day parking might get even more strenuous for Texas students, making it to both men's and women's basketball games won't. Fenves said the central location will make game days easier for both fans and players.

"Coaches Karen Ashton and Shaka Smart want the next facility to be on campus, where it is easier for our

ERWIN page 3



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CITY

Austin combats rise in K2 overdoses

By Catherine Marfin
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Austin city leaders teamed up to crack down on the spread of K2 following an uptick in overdoses and hospitalizations in recent weeks.

K2, also known as synthetic marijuana, is a blend of industrial chemicals most commonly sprayed onto tobacco leaves and smoked. The drug has become a problem among the homeless population of downtown Austin in recent years because it is sold at extremely low prices on the street. Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services responded to dozens of K2 calls almost every night in the past two weeks alone, according to regular updates on their Twitter page.

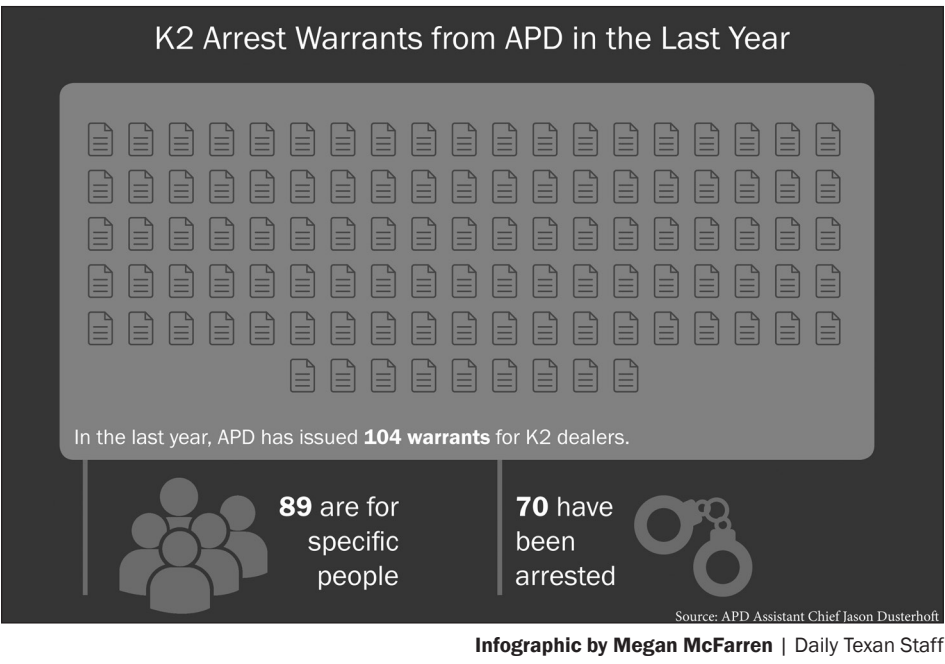
Following this uptick, city leaders announced, in a joint press conference Thursday, a plan to create a multi-agency group that will provide enforcement, substance abuse support and medical care to those affected by K2. The group will include members from the Austin Police Department, the Emergency Medical Services Department, Austin Public Health and Austin-Travis County Integral Care.

“The people that are preying upon the homeless because they are homeless deserve to experience the fullest extent of our law enforcement and judicial system,” Mayor Steve Adler said at the press conference. “For those orchestrating and profiting off this misery, I don’t know if there’s a special place in Hell for that, but there is definitely a place in prison with their name on it.”

APD began increasing patrol officers around the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, an area high in K2 calls — with 17 arrests occurring near the shelter last Monday alone, according to APD.

ATCEMS responded to over 5,000 K2-related calls between January 2012 and December 2016. Numbers have remained high since June 2015, when a record 406 K2-related calls occurred. This February, ATCEMS responded to 307 incidents, or more than 10 per day, according to KEYE TV.

K2 has been illegal in Texas since September 2015. However, law enforcement officials are presented with another problem — because of the wide range of chemicals in each batch, K2 cannot be test-



ed for in hospitals and instead, blood samples must be analyzed in private labs.

APD has issued 104 warrants in the last year for K2 dealers, however, these warrants are difficult to obtain. Since a blood sample can take three to six months to be analyzed, dealers are often out on the street long before a warrant is issued, said APD Assistant Chief Jason Dusterhoft.

APD has started looking at contracting with outside labs

to quicken this turn-around. In the meantime, enforcement efforts will continue to focus on K2 dealers instead of users, Dusterhoft said.

“This is a crisis,” Dusterhoft said. “We’re looking at dealers who are preying on the most vulnerable of the Austin population. We see the users as victims, and we’re not going to go after the victim.”

Services like Austin-Travis County IC and other local nonprofits plan to ramp up

outreach and education efforts, as well as expand on current services for homeless individuals affected by the drug.

“Recovery and stability are not possible if the only places to live are on the streets or in the woods,” said Ellen Richards, chief strategy officer for IC. “A big part of this effort is going to mean working with our local nonprofits to expand and improve services that help get these individuals back on their feet.”

SPACEX

continues from page 1

competition for university students this August.

Aerospace engineering sophomore Sahar Rashed, electronics lead for the team, said the UT Hyperloop pod design features more experimental technology than some of the other teams’ designs.

“To make it to the top 24 was not something that we were 100 percent sure we were going to make,” Rashed said. “We took some risks (with the

design) ... and we were worried that SpaceX wouldn’t value the risks we took as much as we did.”

Aerospace engineering junior Daniel Cha, external vice president of 512 Hyperloop, said the unique design elements of the pod may be a result of the demographics of the team, as the team is made almost entirely of undergraduate students.

“Having a group of undergrad students brings innovation to our team,” Cha said. “They’re not very bound by what can work

and what can not work, because we don’t know too much.”

Though having a younger group incites creative thinking, Rashed said the UT team is faced with disadvantages as well. She said a lack of hands-on builders will complicate the work in the upcoming months.

Team president Brian Poteet, a mechanical engineering senior, said a practical Hyperloop design might never become a reality, but the competition is still an important way for engineers to experiment

with the concept.

“It’s just a great way to both develop the technology and develop student design skills,” Poteet said.

There is no official material prize for the competition, but SpaceX has expressed the possibility that they will contract specific students from the event to work at the company, Rashed said.

512 Hyperloop is currently in the recruiting process, and Poteet said he hopes the team will eventually grow to about 75 students.

DAVIS

continues from page 1

Davis statue and can provide a well-curated, scholarly context for its permanent display.”

Wright said the Briscoe Center is prepared for critics.

“We’re interested in the truth and in displaying the truth and displaying the evidence of the past,” Wright said. “Any student who feels uncomfortable about the statue being here (should know) the statue is no longer commemorated. It’s no longer in a place of honor. It exists as a piece of evidence in our historical exhibit.”

Student Government passed a resolution supporting the removal of the statue in March 2015, led by former executive alliance candidates Xavier Rotnofsky and Rohit Mandalapu, who made it a part of their campaign platform.

“It started out as what we thought was an absurd promise,” Rotnofsky said. “More philosophical and morally, we thought it was ridiculous that we still had Confederate statues up.”

Following another vandalism to the statue in the summer of 2015, Rotnofsky was one of 12 members on the task force considering different options for the statue. Rotnofsky said the task force wanted the statue to be contextualized and used for educational opportunities.

When the Briscoe Center pitched their idea to the task force, Rotnofsky said it was a great idea.

“It’s cool that it’s finally found a place,” Rotnofsky said. “I’d like to visit it next time I’m in Texas.”

Public health sophomore Kayla Eboeime, political action chair for UT Black Student Alliance, said she supports the statue’s placement in the Briscoe Center because it will help people see how far the University has come in terms of diversity.

“It’s important that we preserve our history, especially because forgetting our history impacts how we’re treated in the future,” Eboeime said. “I’m really happy it was taken off of campus, because we need to be more diverse and I think having symbols that are racist and exclusive in nature don’t promote a healthy community for students to learn and grow.”

The exhibit, From Commemoration to Education: Pompeo Coppini’s Statue of Jefferson Davis, and the entire museum opened Saturday for an open house after renovations were completed and will be formally opened today.

The Texan strives to present all information fairly, accurately and completely. If we have made an error, let us know about it. Call (512) 232-2217 or e-mail managingeditor@dailytexanonline.com.

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Low

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CAMPUS

Group sends care packages to victims of sexual assault

By Jenan Taha
@jenan_a_taha

A newly formed student group on campus helps comfort sexual assault survivors by sending them donations and kits filled with clothing items, toiletries and notes of support while they're in the hospital.

Strengthening Sleeping Beauty was created last semester by two UT students, who said the goal of the organization is to provide survivors with clothing and other necessities through donation drives.

"A lot of times, when people go to the hospital to be medically treated for rape or sexual assault, all their possessions are taken, even their clothes," said co-founder Emma Robertson, a sociocultural anthropology and Mandarin sophomore.

The organization had its first donation drop-off in late March at the Eloise House and SafePlace, shelters that offer survivors resources such as forensic exams and housing.

"I've had (a) past with sexual assault, and so it was just really heavy on my heart to help the campus and the community of Austin in a way that supports survivors," Robertson said.

"Because of our partnership, Eloise House is able to take the cost of clothing out of their budget and focus on staffing their clinic with qualified nurses and cultivating a comforting environment for them to begin the process of healing."

Unlike other campus groups that educate students about sexual violence, Strengthening Sleeping Beauty is the only group that focuses on the aftermath of a sexual assault rather than prevention.

"As much as we preach consent and prevention, it's still going to happen," Robertson said. "We need to make sure that there's people intervening and also need to take care of these people."

The organization was inspired by a similar group in California, and advertised their donation drives through Facebook, the co-founders said.

"We were just so excited that so many people within a few minutes were just as excited about making this impact as we were," said co-founder Abigail Wiedenhoefer, international relations and global studies sophomore.

Strengthening Sleeping Beauty is currently

working on reaching more students and hospitals, as well as spreading awareness about sexual violence and how to treat survivors.

"Everyone including us needs to be educated about how to help these survivors as best as possible," Robertson said.

Ami Artiz, Middle Eastern studies sophomore and member of the group, said the kits let survivors know that there are people who care for them.

"The kits are a symbol that rape is not your fault," Artiz said. "You shouldn't feel broken or alone when going through a recovery process."

Artiz said she has experienced sexual assault before and wants to help others going through similar hardships. Artiz said she is concerned about the prevalence of sexual assault on campus.

"I'm sick of it. We all should be. It's unacceptable," Artiz said. "I think I have an obligation to help other women and men."

The group has partnered with Minority Women Pursuing Law and Texas Lassos to get more students involved and plans to continue gathering donations for their upcoming drop-off event this May.

CAMPUS

Engineering conference celebrates new generation

By Ashley Liu
@ashley_liu111

Engineers gathered this past weekend for an annual conference with speech topics ranging from industry racism to solar panel project proposals.

Engineers for a Sustainable World is a nationwide organization that promotes social and environmental prosperity through education, design and construction. Out of its 50 collegiate chapters, UT is the only chapter to host the conference for the second time since 2005.

Conference chair Ananna Anu, a civil engineering senior, said choosing a theme for the conference was tricky.

"Austin is known for its startup culture," Anu said. "We chose the theme 'accelerate' to show how we can sustain these startups. Whether it's on a personal level or a corporate level, engineering is vital to sustainability."

Anu, a fourth-year member of the organization, said

the event is an incredible learning opportunity.

"We are not limited to one engineering major here," Anu said. "I learn about cool industry innovations all the time, some of these innovations happened in industries that I didn't even know existed."

Outside of students and professors, the conference also invited industry professionals.

Andrew Johnston, director of Navigant Global Energy Practice, gave a keynote speech about collaboration within engineering.

"There is a stereotype that engineers aren't good at communicating with others," said Johnston, a UT alumnus. "We are here to see what the next generation has to offer in terms of communication with government officials, students and citizens in order to provide more durable sustainable engineering practices."

Johnston said the annual conference showed him a reflection of engineering's future.

"It is good to see that the future of engineering is getting a tanner complexion and more women," Johnson said. "The current engineering society is full of old, white males. The future brings a generational and cultural bridge to the professional field."

Architectural engineering sophomore Tiffany Tang said she enjoyed presenting solutions to environmental problems. Her group worked weekly on an aquatic engineering design that was presented at the conference in a classroom setting.

"Our jobs are very diverse," Tang said. "We maintain an aquatic system, check for the weather quality, check for the fish and build structures for plants to grow."

Tang said the conference has been an eye-opening experience.

"It's interesting to see what people are doing in other schools," Tang said. "The diversity here in demography and ideas is what makes the conference so interesting."

ERWIN

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student-athletes to travel between their dorms, classes and practice," Fenves said. "It also makes the games more accessible to our student fans."

The Erwin Center has held Texas basketball games since 1977 and has commonly been known as

a "Special Events Center" due to the high number of concerts and events held within its doors.

Though the new arena fares to be smaller than the Erwin Center — which holds more than the average college arena at a capacity of 16,734 — men's athletic director Mike Perrin said it will still be used for all sorts of entertainment.

"Our goal is to have an arena on our campus that can provide the platform for a great atmosphere and a positive fan experience for our men's and women's basketball games," Perrin said. "While our vision is that the arena be basketball-centric, we will look to design it to allow for versatility in hosting other events."

DIVERSITY

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universities. The traditions and complexities of universities can be slow to shift so we must remain diligent in our pursuit."

According to the plan, having a sufficient budget and personnel are key factors for a successful implementation. Vincent said university leadership is also developing a timeline for the implementations and some initiatives listed have already been done or are in the process of being put into action.

Karla Chavez, Student Government Diversity and Inclusion Agency director, said the plan is a good proactive measure by the University, but students should hold administrators accountable to fulfill these initiatives.

"This seems like a kind of transitive feature," said Chavez, an international relations and global studies junior. "The student body, at least the student body from underrepresented communities, they want something ... now because this is recruiting faculty in the future. Well what about the needs that

students have right now?"

According to the press release, the writers of the plan collaborated with university members including SG representatives. Chavez said she had not heard about the plan until she read the email from Fenves and she hopes administration reaches out to students for input and a more holistic approach.

Vincent said the plan is designed to be modified according to the needs of the University. The plan is open for online feedback from the UT community through May 15.

CAMPUS

Texas Blazers continues fight against rape culture

By Ashley Liu
@ashley_liu111

Justin Atkinson, committee leader of the MenCanEnd campaign, believes 90 percent of the University's effort to end campus sexual assault is female and victim-oriented, whereas only 10 percent is directed toward the prevention of sexual assault.

"The energy should be going into giving education on how to navigate healthy sexual relationships," government senior Atkinson said. "We can tell women to walk in packs and use rape whistles all day, but the problem won't be solved until we can teach men how to behave. It's not one or the other, it should be a 50-50 mix."

MenCanEnd is a student initiative launched by the Texas Blazers that aims to promote healthy masculinity while combating rape culture on college campuses. Originally intended as a temporary project, the initiative garnered significant

interest and became a permanent committee within Texas Blazers.

Atkinson said the high occurrence of sexual assault between UT students, shown by the recently released Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments survey, is perpetrated by the "stranger myth" in rape culture, which prevents self-reflection among male students.

"Mainstream media always portrays rape as strangers in the bushes," Atkinson said. "In reality, 90 percent of the victims are raped by someone they know. This creates a good-guy-bad-guy dichotomy that allows people to distance themselves and say that 'I'm a good guy, I would never do that.'"

According to the CLASE survey, only 1 percent of rape victims have reported to the UT Police Department.

"I wonder if it's because the police has a masculine overtone that make victims less inclined to report," Atkinson said.

"But rape is about the loss of power, and under Title IX, the University's duty is to help victims restore their sense of self-power and agency."

Astronomy freshman Yasmine Kem said she hopes the University takes more preemptive action against sexual assault.

"We hear survivor stories way more often than we hear about the aftermath of the offender," Kem said. "This one-sided lens places the burden of the tragedy on the women rather than the man. We need to make the offenders carry the weight, not the victims."

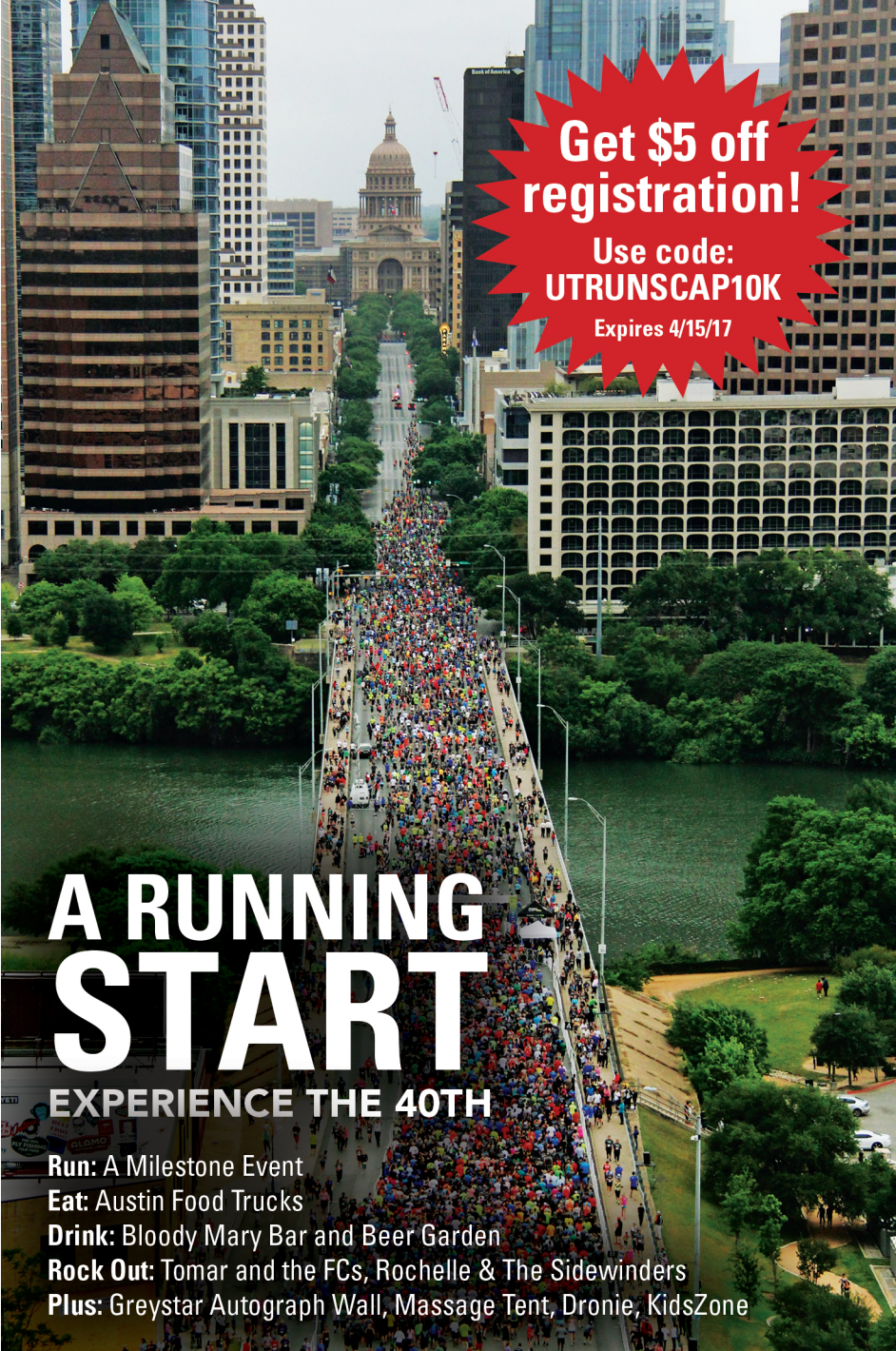
Kem said the school should use education as its main tactic in preventing sexual assault.

"We don't necessarily have to shame every male student on campus," Kem said. "But they should recognize that everyone has a responsibility in preventing sexual assault. The best way in achieving that is through education and raising awareness."



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COLUMN

SURE Walk must become more accountable

By Josephine MacLean
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@maclean_josie

The ‘SURE’ in SURE Walk stands for Students United for Rape Elimination. Originally created in 1982, SURE Walk has, unsurprisingly, seen a huge increase in requests for late-night security since the tragic murder of Haruka Weiser.

But SURE Walk’s current lack of written procedures and Student Government’s oversight have struggled to keep up with both the program’s growth and current information about the way sexual assaults happen to UT students.

Public relations freshman Lauren Hooper was one of many UT students participating in RoundUp activities when she encountered a girl at high risk of sexual assault and alcohol poisoning. “This girl could barely walk, she could barely talk, she could barely stand,” Hooper said. “I feel very positive that, if I hadn’t helped her, something bad would have happened to her.”

Hooper called SURE Walk, “because I know that’s the campus thing to get home safely.” But when the golf cart arrived, Hooper was shocked at the volunteer’s refusal to transport the inebriated student. They said she was too much of a liability, and suggested Hooper either call the police or an expensive ride share. Then the volunteers left to take another call.

Not wanting to get the student in trouble, Hooper personally paid for a ride share to take the girl back to her dorm. Hooper isn’t mad at the volunteers — “they’re also trying to do the best they can,” she said — but nevertheless felt understandably upset that the policy wasn’t clear from the beginning.

“There’s a lot of misconception and there is a need for this to either be cleared up or for something to change,” said Hooper. “I probably won’t use SURE Walk again.”

UT’s Student Amnesty for Drug and Alcohol related emergencies policy means that neither Hooper nor the student she was trying to help would face disciplinary action for calling UT

Police Department, but SURE Walk’s volunteers’ failure to share this created an unsafe situation.

In fact, the few online sources about SURE Walk do not mention restrictions on services, and do not include any information on UT’s Amnesty Policy.

This is not the only communication failure from the SURE Walk program. While UT staff in Parking and Transportation Services and the Office of Student Conduct were helpful and open about explaining policies and practices for this column, top SG officers met questions about SURE Walk with hostility, and in one case, an open refusal to answer questions.

When asked about restrictions on SURE Walk use, former SG Chief of Staff, Isaiah Carter, directed attention away from the program, and laid the blame at the feet of individual students.

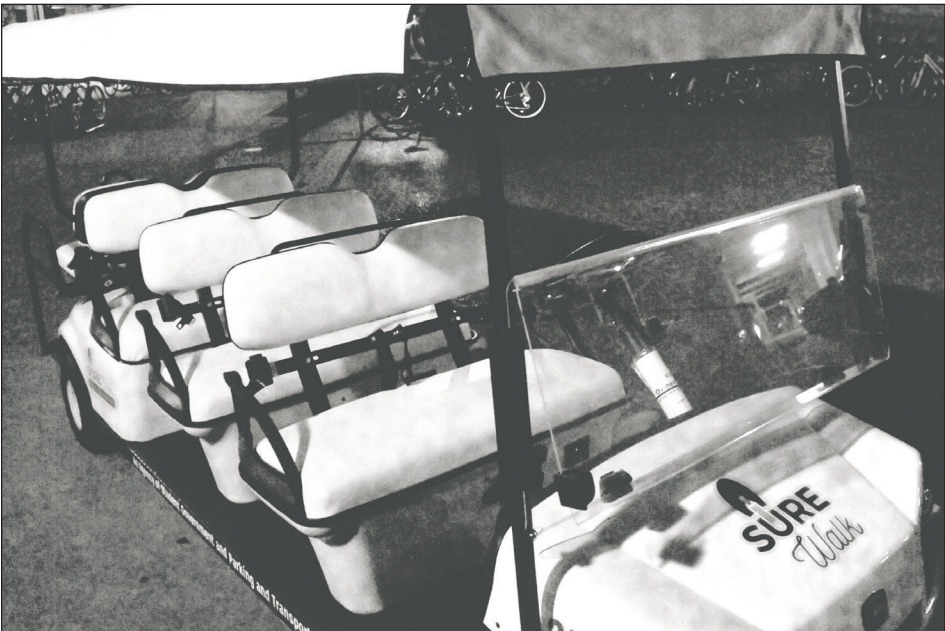
“I would tell any student who finds concern that it is important to have a plan if you are going far away from home and planning to get drunk,” wrote Carter in an email.

Carter’s response reveals a complete lack of awareness of the way college drinking culture can lead to dangerous situations. It also completely disregards recent statistics surrounding situations in which sexual assault happens. No one plans to be sexually assaulted or to be stranded without a way to get home.

SURE Walk may even be a common plan for a safe ride home, because its zone of operation covers West Campus. This service is even more vital because a Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments study shows sexual assault is most likely to happen off campus.

Carter also misrepresented SG’s role in training volunteers, first telling me that was “a question for PTS.” But Jeremy Hernandez, with PTS, said in an email that “Student Government handles the coordination of all volunteers. We are not able to comment.”

Hernandez referred me back to Carter, who, when asked to clarify about volunteer orientation, refused to answer. “I don’t have



Mary Pistorius | Daily Texan file photo

A SURE Walk golf cart is ready to transport students from campus locations to their homes. SURE Walk policies have recently caused confusion among students.

time to do all of this for an opinion article,” he said in an email, despite having done multiple interviews about SURE Walk with news sources from UT and other organizations in the past.

If a program specifically working for rape elimination is not serving the most at-risk population, that policy needs to be made abundantly clear so that students like Lauren Hooper, trying to prevent a possible sexual assault, are not left in a lurch when they seek services.

Hooper’s experience should not have happened. “Our policy is not to refuse rides to individuals that need them from and to campus,” said SURE Walk director Krishan Sachdev. “If the situation arises that we simply cannot accommodate a group of students we make sure that they get in contact with UTPD who will then provide them with a ride back

home/to campus.”

Sachdev also noted that orientation procedures have varied over semesters, but more importantly that there is no training manual or written policy for volunteer training.

SURE Walk employees also do not have a written policy manual, but one is being created, Hernandez said. It is unclear whether a manual is being created for volunteers.

While these may be effects of rapidly growing demand, confused SURE Walk volunteers or employees create dangerous situations, such as the one Hooper found herself in. If SURE Walk really wants to accomplish the mission in its name, it needs to evaluate its policies and training, and become more accountable to the UT student body.

MacLean is an advertising and geography sophomore from Austin.

COLUMN



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan file photo

Cars park in front of the Student Services Building on Dean Keeton, which houses UT’s Counseling and Mental Health Center. The CHMC provides useful resources for LGBTQ students on campus.

CMHC provides necessary resources for LGBTQ students

By Nahila Bonfiglio
Daily Texan Columnist
@NahilaBonfiglio

A program at the University of Texas at Austin is hard at work protecting the citizens that the Trump administration is leaving behind, particularly transgender and non-binary students. UT’s Counseling and Mental Health Center provides a long list of services for all members of the UT community, but their services for trans and non-binary students are particularly important at a point when their rights are under attack.

In recent months, Texas has seen a bathroom bill that would force transgender people to use the bathroom corresponding to their biological sex as it is stated on their birth certificates, and no new protections have been instituted for transgender employees. Because of these changes, a community that is already often overlooked find themselves with far fewer options and friendly faces to turn to.

Non-binary students, or those that feel as though they do not fit into either the traditional male or female categories, have a whole different set of hurdles. Transgender issues have come into the spotlight with issues like the bathroom bill receiving coverage, but many people don’t even know what it means to be non-binary. There are no specific protections for non-binary citizens other than those that are in place for other members of the LGBTQ community.

However, the CMHC boasts more than 50 groups that are offered specifically for

the LGBTQ community, according to assistant director Katy Redd. They also have several diversity coordinators on staff, and interested students can select a counselor based on a number of specifics like gender identity and cultural identity that may make them feel more comfortable. Young people often discover who they are and who they want to be in college, and without services like this they may be at a loss as to where to go for advice or help.

In a year, the CMHC typically provides services to about 10 percent of the student population. For the LGBTQ population there are a number of therapy groups and the ability to meet with staff members, including psychologist and diversity coordinator Joey Hannah, who have specialized knowledge about gender, sexuality and diversity. One of the great services for transgender and non-binary students offered is the ability to get a letter that can be used to begin transition care. That little piece of paper can act as armor to a person struggling with their identity and looking for a way for their outside to match their inside.

For students that feel like Legislature is either ignoring them or, in some cases, attacking them, it is good to know that there is support — in walking distance, no less. Whether you are gay, straight, queer, or anything in between, there is a place to go. Even if all you need is someone to talk to, this program offers a place where you can be the real you.

Bonfiglio is a journalism junior from Oak Creek, Colorado.

COLUMN

Patent protection reforms needed to liberate consumers

By Usmaan Hasan
Daily Texan Columnist
@UzzieHasan

217 years ago, on April 10th, 1710, the Statute of Anne came into effect — creating a 14-year period of exclusive protection for the works of authors. The Statute of Anne is considered the first copyright act in the world. The law itself was repealed 132 years later, but by that time its ideas had found their way into the U.S. Constitution’s Intellectual Property Clause. However, a combination of overzealous protections and weak regulations have been detrimental to the American consumer.

The pharmaceutical industry sits at the heart of most debates surrounding patent reform. Companies spend an estimated \$1.2 billion to 1.8 billion to develop, test and market a single new drug. These are risky gambles. Bristol-Myers Squibb’s failed trial of a novel immunotherapy drug wiped out \$20 billion worth of value from the company overnight.

To shelter companies from the risk of failure, Congress has provided strong intellectual property protections that severely limit competition. The Hatch-Waxman Act of 1984 gives a five-year window of exclusive sales for brand name drugs. During this time the Food and Drug Administration is forbidden from approving any generic drugs which function similar to the brand name drug. On occasion, large pharmaceutical firms file lawsuits against companies in the process of developing cheaper generic drugs. Under the provisions of the act a lawsuit keeps the exclusivity window open for another 30 months.

In a last ditch effort to lock out competition brand name drug manufacturers are blatantly refusing to cooperate with generics. Under a 2009 law, any generic or biosimilar drug seeking approval after the exclusivity period lapsed could do so by simply proving chemical similarity to the preexisting brand name drug. This allowed new drugs to rely upon a proven body of evidence for approval and makes new drugs safer. However, to prove this similarity the FDA must have samples of the original and new drug for comparison. In this brand name firms have proven to be difficult to work with, refusing to provide samples or develop risk mitigation strategies required by law.

Drug monopolies are formed by these policies, and consumers bear the brunt of unreasonably high prices. The tactics used by medical companies to shut out generics competition are estimated to cost consumers \$3.5 billion a year.

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Drug monopolies are formed by these policies, and consumers bear the brunt of unreasonably high prices. The tactics used by medical companies to shut out generics competition are estimated to cost consumers \$3.5 billion a year.

Moreover, ill-thought-out regulation has created trouble after generic drugs are approved by creating exclusive 180-day marketing windows for the first generic drug approved. Moreover, the original manufacturer of the brand name drug has a special “fast-track” to the generic drug approval. The impact is nearly identical to the brand name drug monopolies. Markets become winner-take-all and gray-market monopolies develop around older drugs — most notable in the 500 percent increase in the price of EpiPens over seven years. The drugs people desperately need are costing them more than they should.

The current legislation regulating big pharma was born of compromise and lobbyists and is woefully inadequate in addressing the fundamental issues plaguing the industry. The courts have taken positive steps toward deeming pay-for-delay tactics as deserving antitrust scrutiny. However, the legal loopholes of the Hatch-Waxman Act must be closed.

Exclusivity windows should be extended on a case-by-case basis in the instance of lawsuits and the fast-track original manufacturers hold for generics approval needs to be revoked. Fairer pricing is more likely to occur when competitors stand on a level playing field. Finally, the cooperation between generics and brand name drugs to prove similarity was addressed by the CREATES Act of 2016 before it died in committee. Congress must take up similar legislation again this session and pass it. These steps will provide proper protections to the American people while balancing the protection of intellectual property.

Patent protections are critical to respect innovators, but the inadequacy of current regulation is poised to stifle innovation. The concept of intellectual property must be updated from its 1710 origin.

Hasan is a business freshman from Plano.

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FOOD

Russian House offers authentic cuisine, culture

By Raphael Jaquette
@thedailytexan

Next to the host stand at a restaurant on Austin's Fifth Street sits a stuffed bear by the name of Misha wearing a USSR-era ushanka and a tight white "Keep Austin Russian" t-shirt. Considered representative of the resilience of the Russian spirit, the bear is just one of many cultural peculiarities that Russian House offers. Established in October 2012, and currently managed by Roman Butvin, Russian House is an eatery and bar opened by a couple from Moscow who sought to bring authentic Eastern European cuisine to Austin. "They desired to bring a positive representation of Russia to the States," Butvin said. "They thought a culturally active place like Austin was the perfect fit." To bring Russian culture to Austin, they decided to reflect Russian culture in its entirety — contemporary and traditional. Different areas of the restaurant are modeled after

varying Russian time periods. "The front room for large parties is fashioned in traditional folk style and the front bar is a showcase for local live Russian music," Butvin said. "The dining area is meant to resemble old Babushka's house in the early 20th century. There are some private rooms in the back that are like private Russian apartments." The attention to detail in portraying Russian culture has left patrons with more than just a typical dining experience. The front of the house displays Soviet-era décor such as flags and uniforms, some of which diners can wear throughout their dining experience. The rear dining room is quite the contrast: Russian artwork and classic trinkets such as Matryoshka dolls line the walls and quaint lace cloths cover the tables. "It's intended to not just be about the food, but rather the overall experience," Vishnu Srinivasa, chemistry freshman and regular patron, said. The restaurant attributes its culinary success to its executive chef, 25-year cook-

ing veteran Vladimir Gribkov. "I am in complete control of the menu, and prepare all of the drink and vodka infusions," Gribkov said. "We use old and secret Russian recipes, with only organic vegetables and fruits." Russian House offers 101 nationally recognized house-infused vodkas, such as mango, elderflower and juniper. The consumption of all flavors has become a competition amongst regular patrons who flaunt their drinking of all the specialty vodkas with a shirt that proclaims their accomplishment. "Last year, we were selected as one of the best vodka bars in the United States by USA Today for our selections," Gribkov said. "People come from all over to try our vodkas." Contributing to the authentic atmosphere are the predominantly Eastern European workers, who carefully explain Russian dining etiquette as classic Russian waltzes play in the background. "Russian House is so effective because those who



Courtesy of Roman Butvin

Russian eatery on Fifth Street seeks to promote awareness of Russian culture through decorations, 101 signature infused vodkas and live music.

work here understand and value the cultural experience immensely," Butvin said. "The kitchen staff are Russian, Ukrainian and ex-USSR, while the servers include folks that are Russian, Ukrainian, Hungarian and Serbian." Russian House not only

seeks to bring Russian culture to Austin through décor, food and drinks, but through community outreach such as basic Russian lessons, which help to preserve a culture that is easily misunderstood. Butvin notes that Russian culture is something anyone can enjoy. "There is so much that is

universal and incredible about Russian culture — literature, ballet, or painters," Butvin said. "The negative perceptions are often political, but when you speak of culture, there is much Russia has brought to the world, and it's great that a diverse place like Austin can experience it."

JAMNESTY

continues from page 8 and French junior, organized the acts and petitions as event coordinator. Yorn said planning for the event relied heavily on support from the UT community. "It was a lot of outreach," Yorn said. "We made fliers and posted them all around campus. We also got help from the UT campus radio and other organizations like ACLU and the Liberal Arts Refugee Alliance. It's great to see people coming together for one cause." Along with the petitions, which center around the theme of feminism, human rights organizations supporting other causes will

table at the event to get students involved in their community. Alisa Hernandez, international relations and sociology sophomore, said she hopes the tabling will help students who are unaware of the impact they can make. As Amnesty's treasurer, Hernandez has made her own impact by fundraising for the event through selling succulents. "Sometimes it's hard when you know that things are going on but you don't know what to do about it," Hernandez said. "So we have a lot of different clubs tabling and hopefully people will be inspired and get involved around campus." Hernandez said she was excited to host an event around

intersectional feminism because of its importance in today's society. Although the feminist movement has been around for over a century, she said the movement also has a history of exclusiveness within itself. "It's really important because often when people throw around the word 'feminist,' it's what is called 'white feminism,'" Hernandez said. "(White feminism) is when people don't understand that lives are intersectional and different forms of oppression affect certain people more than others. So we decided to emphasize intersectionality because we want people to understand the importance of it and what feminism is and should be."

SELENA

continues from page 8 of tickets to the rescreening of Selena in every location last year. Bergara said Selena's spike in popularity is a combination of it being close to the 20th anniversary of Selena's death and a growing sense of cultural pride. "Right now Chicano culture is such a big thing especially given the political landscape," Bergara said. "The look, the energy and the vibe is definitely an opportunity for Latina women to wave their flag and say this is what we look like in America in 2017, we still look like Selena, we still love Selena."

Christina Horton, Mexican-American and Latino studies sophomore, said Selena is relatable to younger generations because of her charismatic personality. "She died before I was born, but seeing her in videos and interviews, she was very real," Horton said. "Her confidence sparked confidence in me. If that girl from Corpus Christi can do it, then I from El Paso can do it too. Not just performing, but whatever I want to do in life." Selena's confidence and stage presence are the most important aspects of what Bidi Bidi Banda wants to recreate for Selena fans. Banda is different from other Selena tribute bands in that Bergara doesn't impersonate

Selena or dress like her. "One of the biggest compliments I've ever gotten was from some older woman. A woman older than my grandmother came up to me and said 'I saw Selena back in the '80s, and you don't look like her, you don't exactly sing like her, but the energy is the same,'" Bergara said. "That's the biggest compliment I've ever gotten through the band." Bidi Bidi Banda's true goal is to channel the high energy Selena used to stir in audiences, and Bergara says they plan to bring it to the Highball again this year. "That's all we're trying to do is capture the energy," Bergara said. "We want to take people back."

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BASEBALL | OKLAHOMA 2-1 TEXAS

Senior first baseman Kacy Clemens swings the bat during Texas' 2-1 loss to Oklahoma on Sunday. Clemens hit a grand slam in the three-game series.



Briana Vargas
Daily Texan Staff

Longhorns earn series win over Sooners

By Vanessa Le
@vanessale

On Saturday, senior first baseman Kacy Clemens sent the Sooners home with bitter tastes in their mouths after blasting a grand slam in the Longhorns' blowout win. Less than 24 hours later, Oklahoma had to return to UFCU Disch-Falk Field to meet Texas for the finale of the Red River Showdown. But the Longhorns didn't let the Sooners forget about the previous game just yet. They immediately loaded the bases in the first inning to recreate the exact same scenario that ended in a grand slam Saturday. Same runners on base, same batter at the plate. Although Clemens couldn't send another ball out of the park, he hit a sacrifice fly to give the Longhorns an early advantage in the game. But

Texas couldn't hold onto its lead and dropped the final game to Oklahoma, 2-1, falling short of the sweep. Despite the frustrating loss, the Longhorns still remain positive about their performance this weekend. "It's just when you get to two first wins and you do have the opportunity (to sweep), it's a little frustrating that you don't finish the job, unless you get blown out," head coach David Pierce said. "We didn't get blown out, we just didn't come up with a clutch hit, so overall it was a good weekend for us." But after the first inning, Clemens didn't get another chance to help his team in the game. During his next at-bat, he struck out looking and disagreed with the home plate umpire's call, yelling a few words in rebuttal. But the umpire silenced him by ejecting him from

the game. Burnt orange fans — who were hoping to see Clemens repeat his offensive success — were anything but silent, however. The stadium erupted in boos and heckles at the umpire about the controversial call. Junior Jake McKenzie replaced Clemens at first base and collected a hit, but the Longhorns still missed the presence of Clemens' production at the plate. "Any time your four-hole hitter and your leading RBI guy is not in that ball game, it definitely changes (things)," Pierce said. "But I'm really proud of Jake. He steps in, gets a base hit, hit the ball well the second time and played great defense. It's unfortunate that it happened, but we've got to move on." From there, the momentum shifted to the Sooners' side. Junior pitcher Kyle Johnston started the

game with five dominant scoreless innings. But the Sooners finally caught up to Johnston and brought in a crucial run that tied the game at 1-1. Oklahoma continued to find the ball in the seventh inning and scored another run against sophomore reliever Chase Shugart to take a 2-1 lead. Sophomore reliever Beau Ridgeway gave his team a chance to make a comeback by tossing scoreless innings in the eighth and ninth, but the Longhorns were unable to rally, giving Oklahoma the win. "I know that we're a great team," junior right fielder Travis Jones said. "I think everyone else in the locker room knows that we're a great team. It's just that we kind of have to swing the bats whenever we've got great pitching on the mound and we didn't do that today and it costed us the game."

SOFTBALL | OKLAHOMA 6-0 TEXAS

Texas still searching for first conference win

By Wills Layton
@willsdebeastW

One inning can make the biggest difference in softball. The Longhorns played the reigning national champions, the Oklahoma Sooners, incredibly close all weekend long, losing by two runs or less in the first two games of the three-game series. Sunday's 6-0 shutout wasn't nearly as close. The Sooners earned just one run in the series finale, but the Longhorns committed several defensive errors in the top of the second inning that led to five Oklahoma runs. The Longhorns managed five hits in Sunday's 6-0 loss. Senior third baseman Celina Felix went 2-for-3 at the plate and senior first baseman Kelli Hanzel hit a triple, but the Longhorns struggled to bring runners home. "I thought we competed pretty well down the stretch of the game," head coach Connie Clark said. "But again we gave away a lot of opportunities and just weren't creative enough to get it done offensively." Texas' offense scored just three total runs in the series and hasn't been able to exceed that mark since last weekend's matchup against Houston. The Longhorns have a history this season of hanging in there with ranked opponents and then stumbling in the final innings, losing by just one or two runs on multiple occasions. "We're right there every time in ballgames and we're just coming up a little

short," senior pitcher Tiarra Davis said. "When we get those key wins in those moments and come out on top I think we're going to be very successful." In the midst of a four-game losing streak, Texas still has chances to rack up some conference wins with series against Texas Tech, Iowa State, Kansas and No. 13 Baylor. Despite getting swept by Oklahoma, the Longhorns consider the series a good learning experience moving forward. "I think it builds our mental toughness," Felix said. "We had to face one of the top teams in the country, so we know how to compete." The Longhorns carry a 20-18 record as they get ready to hit the road for next weekend's three-game series against Texas Tech. The team is still searching for its first conference win as it prepares for the Red Raiders. Texas players understand the importance of sharpening up on defense for the remainder of the season. "Just play loose, play like how we always do, play comfortable like we usually are in practice," Felix said. "We have to take that out onto the field when it's game time." With four weeks remaining in the regular season, the team looks toward finishing the rest of the season strong. "We just need to find a way to continue to play hard," Clark said. "You can't give up obviously there's a lot of ball to be played in the final month and we just have to keep working."

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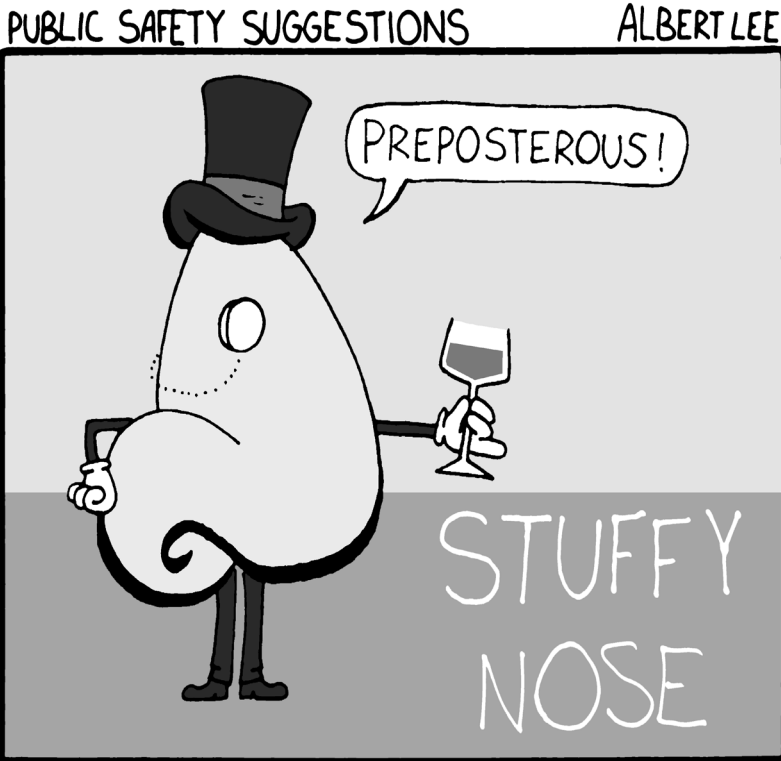
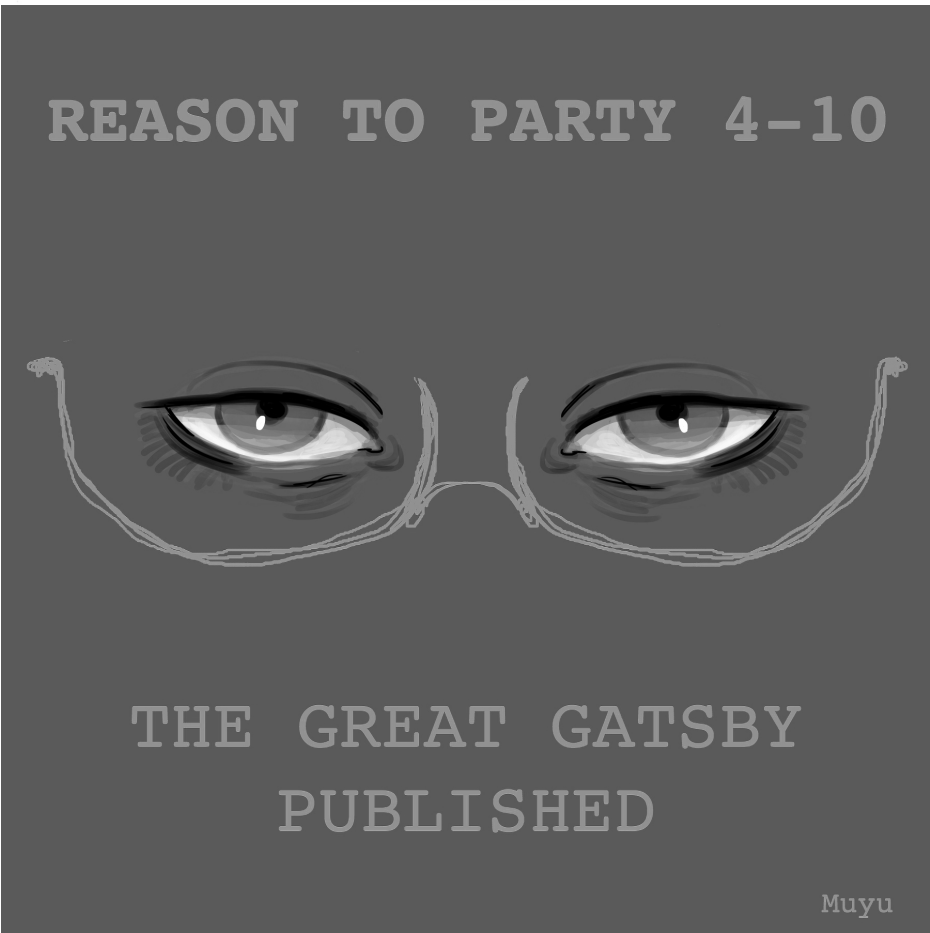
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0306

- ACROSS**
- 1 Medicine-approving org.
 - 4 Wine barrel
 - 8 Awards in the ad biz
 - 13 Rainbow shape
 - 14 Opera melody
 - 15 Quick look
 - 16 Paving goo
 - 17 Article of outerwear for an urbanite?
 - 19 Too many of them "spoil the broth"
 - 21 Bunny's movement
 - 22 Component of a science course
 - 23 Article of outerwear for a champagne drinker?
 - 26 Done: Fr.
 - 27 Having a ho-hum attitude
 - 28 Warm greeting
 - 29 Justice Sotomayor
 - 30 Leave full
 - 31 Common weather phenomenon in San Francisco
 - 32 Ankle-high work shoe
 - 33 Article of outerwear for a candy lover?
 - 36 Potato chips, to Brits
 - 39 --rock (music genre)
 - 40 Entree that may be slathered in barbecue sauce
 - 44 "Grand" women
 - 45 Classic muscle car
 - 46 Removes the rind from
 - 47 Inlets
 - 48 Article of outerwear for a housekeeper?
 - 50 Lee who directed "Life of Pi"
 - 51 Harbour, Fla.
 - 52 Newspapers, collectively
 - 53 Article of outerwear for a General Motors employee?
 - 57 Bird that gives a hoot
 - 59 Gold standards
 - 60 --lily
 - 61 Chinese leader with a Little Red Book
 - 62 Panache
 - 63 Rat or roach
 - 64 No. after a main telephone no.
- DOWN**
- 1 What the "Gras" of Mardi Gras means
 - 2 Count with fangs
 - 3 Circus tumbler
 - 4 Witch's laugh
 - 5 Crop up
 - 6 Command to a dog
 - 7 Mary cosmetics
 - 8 Bit from a movie
 - 9 Fond du --, Wis.
 - 10 Faintest idea
 - 11 Easter Island locale
 - 12 Belgrade native
 - 15 Unappetizing food that might be served with a ladle
 - 18 Carpet variety
 - 20 Thinks, thinks, thinks (about)
 - 23 Small ammo

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59						60			61		
62						63			64		

- PUZZLE BY SUSAN GELFAND**
- 24 Command spoken while pulling the reins
 - 25 Rambunctious little kids
 - 26 200- or 400-meter run, e.g.
 - 29 Madrid Mrs.
 - 31 N.F.L. three-pointers: Abbr.
 - 32 Droid
 - 34 Alternative to FedEx
 - 35 Thicken, as blood
 - 36 Holders of some music collections
 - 37 Headgear for a drizzly day
 - 38 Descriptive language
 - 41 Annoying
 - 42 Honeycomb product
 - 43 Retired jet, for short
 - 45 Shorebird with a distinctive shriek
 - 46 Caged talker
 - 48 Painters' touches
 - 49 Some computer picture files
 - 51 Memory unit
 - 54 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
 - 55 Nile viper
 - 56 Middle of Arizona?
 - 58 Auction grouping

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ALBUM REVIEW| ‘PURE COMEDY’

‘Pure Comedy’ turns to more serious sounds

By Chris Duncan
@Chr_dunc

After the release of his solo breakout *I Love You, Honeybear*, Josh Tillman faced a difficult decision — create another record with the same sound and risk repetition, or go out on a limb and risk losing his fans. Now that he has chosen the latter, Father John Misty is poised to rule over the indie world, releasing an album full of confrontational ballads.

In addition to producing solo albums as J. Tillman since 2004, Tillman also played drums briefly for Fleet Foxes. After he left the band in 2012, Tillman adopted his current moniker and persona Father John Misty, a man whose over-exuberant passion on stage paired with a fun-loving spirit, conscious lyrics and witty observations make for quite a show. His debut album *Fear Fun* missed its mark slightly, but *I Love You, Honeybear* attracted the fervent support of indie fans with its sappy pop sound and lovey dovey

story lines. Now, with *Pure Comedy*, FJM turns over a new leaf, coaxing out satirical and ironic content to the forefront of his music.

Upon first listen, *Pure Comedy* was a letdown. It's nowhere near as welcoming as its predecessor, featuring mainly piano ballads and solo acoustic songs that can run as long as 14 minutes in the case of the storytelling-epic “Leaving L.A.” It was a letdown to hear this instrumental de-evolution of FJM's music — the entire album felt like one long Twitter rant, going on and on to the point where it might be considered self-parody.

However, after a few more listens, the record reveals a few merits. “Pure Comedy” is the obvious standout, combining the pop-feel of Misty's previous successes with aggressive, two-pronged lyrics that attack both sides of the political spectrum. It's the instrumentation makes this song go from enjoyable to memorable, but that key element is nowhere to be found for the rest of the

record. “Total Entertainment Forever” comes close with its laugh-inducing lyrics, but for the rest of the project it is ballad after ballad for over an hour.

The worst part of *Pure Comedy* is its pretentious outlook. It was charming when mixed in with love songs and a few jokes. Now, it's far too in-your-face. Tracks such as “When the God of Love Returns There'll Be Hell To Pay,” take on sparse instrumentation to keep the attention of Misty's lyrics, but the repetition between songs and the high-brow remarks make some songs unlistenable. In “There'll Be Hell To Pay,” Misty sings, “Every monster has a code, One that steadies the shaking hand, And he's determined to accrue more capital by whatever means he can,” making him sound like a self-proclaimed prophet lecturing a packed church on the dangers of greed.

Pure Comedy challenges FJM fans to wake up and see the true side of society hidden behind his schmaltzy pop tunes, a society that's

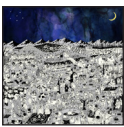


Thalia Juarez | Daily Texan file photo
Father John Misty's newest record explores the darker side of his music, bringing irony and sarcastic critiques to the forefront of every song.

dark and brooding, often centered around selfishness and conflict. The buffer between Tillman's morbid curiosities is what kept fans so engaged in his last record. He's throwing strife upon an audience that already knows and feels his pains.

On his first two albums,

Father John Misty walked the tightrope between playful and painful perfectly, writing songs that impressed sonically and lyrically. But now on his third he's let his pseudonym get to his head, becoming a full-blown preacher to a crowd that doesn't really want to listen.



PURE COMEDY
Artist: Father John Misty
Genre: Alternative
Rating: ★★

CAMPUS

‘Jamnesty’ makes concerted effort to support human rights

By Ashley Salinas
@ashley_salinas3

It's not uncommon to hear live music serenading people as they're bustling past Gregory Gym Plaza. But on April 12, one concert will seek to benefit more than just active gym goers and weary students.

From 6 to 9:30 p.m., UT's Amnesty International chapter will host their annual Jamnesty event, a benefit concert featuring local bands to raise awareness for human rights. This year, the club chose to focus on intersectional feminism, with all proceeds being donated to Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera, an organization that works to fight against injustice for female workers along the Texas-Mexico border.

Considering the club's mostly female membership, Maleeha Syed, journalism junior and chapter president, said the theme of feminism was inevitable.

“We have a very present female force on our leadership team,” Syed said. “But it's such



Chase Karacostas | Daily Texan Staff
Maleeha Syed, journalism junior and UT Amnesty International chapter president, and Danin Yorn, anthropology and French junior, coordinated the annual Jamnesty concert.

an important issue, even for the boys.”

Syed said she was excited to discuss inclusivity within the feminist movement.

“When we talk about intersectional feminism, we never want to exclude a group,” Syed said. “So we talk about trans rights and the LGBTQ community and women of color, among others. You can't miss out on a marginalized group, which is the whole idea.”

In addition to live music, the concert will also feature

spoken word poets and various petitions for attendants to sign. Syed said she hopes the petitions will get people involved and eager to learn about social justice issues.

“We get to teach so many people about Amnesty and how we try to raise human rights awareness around campus,” Syed said. “It's really cool to see all kinds of people at the concert who you never thought would be interested.”

Danin Yorn, an anthropology

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MUSIC

Bidi Bidi Banda celebrates Selena, hosts tribute festival

By Andrea Tinning
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Last year, The Highball faced its biggest crowd ever when over 1000 people showed up to hear Bidi Bidi Banda, Austin's own Selena tribute band. This year, the celebration is going to be even bigger in remembrance of what would be the late singer's 46th birthday.

Next Sunday, Bidi Bidi Banda is hosting Selenafest for the second year in a row. The festival is celebrated on Selena's birthday which will fall on Easter Sunday this year. The festival will last longer than previous years since the band plans to double up on shows to accommodate bigger crowds throughout the day. A representative of the city council will be at the festival to declare April 16 Selena Day in Austin.

“In a city where a fear of

gentrification is on everyone's list, to say Tejano music is an important thing for us to recognize and this is the day for that, is important to our community because it's positive celebration,” Keith Ruckus, entertainment director at The Highball, said. “If there's going to be tears it's going to be tears of joy that day.”

Lead vocalist Stephanie Bergara said the festival will include a Selena look-alike contest, a dance contest and Cumbia dance lessons in between performances from Bidi Bidi Banda and Su Madre.

The proclamation is a victory for Tejano music fans in Austin, where the genre often gets sidelined by larger music scenes, Bergara said.

“It's important for Austin to host Selenafest because if you look at the landscape of Tejano music, it's

“It's important for Austin to host Selenafest because if you look at the landscape of Tejano music, it's regionally based in San Antonio.”

—Stephanie Bergara, Bidi Bidi Banda lead vocalist

regionally based in San Antonio,” Bergara said. “It puts our flag in the ground and says we in Austin love Tejano music, too.”

The Selena fandom is booming all over again in locations across Texas. The Alamo Drafthouse sold out

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